

## About the Co-Founder and CEO, Chauncia Willis, MPA, MEP, CEM, CPC

Chauncia Willis is the Co-Founder and CEO of the Institute for Diversity and Inclusion in Emergency Management (I-DIEM)



Chauncia Willis is an Emergency Management and Cultural Diversity expert. She began her career at the Atlanta-Fulton County Emergency Management Agency, where she was exposed to the inequities that abound in all phases of disaster. Ms. Willis has been an outspoken advocate for building a more culturally diverse and inclusive Emergency Management workforce, one that represents the diverse communities served. She believes increased equity training will reduce the devastating impacts of unconscious bias, and that the Emergency Management enterprise would benefit from implementing foundational diversity, inclusion and equity concepts. In her role as the CEO for I-DIEM, she provides organizations with recommendations on policy creation, resource allocations and program development to increase cultural competence and mitigate the negative impacts of disaster on vulnerable groups.

Before co-founding I-DIEM, Chauncia Willis served as a professional Emergency Manager for over 21 years within local, state, and private sector organizations. Chauncia spent 14 years with the City of Tampa where she created and managed the Office of Emergency Management and designed and directed the City's Emergency Operations Center. She is a Certified Emergency Manager, Master Exercise Practitioner and Certified Professional Coach, and serves as the immediate past-President of the International Association of Emergency Managers, Region 4. Ms. Willis has a diverse background in disaster management and has overseen and been deployed in response and recovery efforts for catastrophic hurricanes, floods, tornadoes, disease outbreaks, and civil disturbances. Additionally, she is an expert in large scale event planning and has coordinated consequence management and homeland security activities for large-scale national and international events to include the Tampa Bay Super Bowl XLIII, the Republican National Convention, the International Indian Film Festival (Bollywood Oscars), the NCAA National Football Championships and the Women's Final Four Championships.

Chauncia Willis is from St. Petersburg, Florida. She received a Bachelor's Degree in Psychology from Loyola University New Orleans. She studied government and policy at the Georgia State University, Andrew Young School of Policy Studies where she earned a Master of Public Administration degree. Her interests include the psychology of disaster trauma, women in leadership, vulnerable community resilience planning, gender and racial bias in disaster response, and the impacts of social inequities pre-and post-disaster. Ms. Willis is a graduate of the Institute for Professional Excellence in Coaching and the FEMA Emergency Management Executive Academy, Cohort II.